total of nearly 12,000 insects at the trap covering 12 nights and comprising 98 species of macros. Of the four species of Sphingids by far the most numerous was *Deilephila porcellus* L. There were quite a lot of *Arctia caja* L. and *Malacosoma neustria* L., with a fair number of both the Ermines. Among the noctuids possibly the most plentiful was *Cucullia umbratica* L. *Hadene lepida* Esp. appeared in a light brown form in some plenty with a remarkable assortment of *Ceramica pisi* L. and some fine *Agrotis trux* Hübn. Of the less frequent noctuids we saw, mostly in single specimens, were *Hadena barrettii* Doubleday, *Apamea furva* D. & S., *Cucullia asteris* D. & S., *Plusia bractea* D. & S., *P. festucae* L. and several *Leucania putrescens* Hübn. Mr. Stewart Coxey, who joined us just before we left on 20th July, said shortly afterwards he had at light a few *Plusia chryson* Esp. Geometers were distinctly scarce with a few *Scopula promutata* Guen., *Lygris mellinata* F., *L. pyraliata* D. & S., *Pseudoterpna pruinata* Hufn. and *Ortholitha plumbaria* F. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Shores Road, Horsell, Surrey.

AN UNUSUAL LOCALITY FOR MICROTHRIX SIMILELLA (ZINC.). — I have had the good fortune to record at light four specimens of this conspicuously white-banded oak-feeding Phycitid from four widely separated localities this year. Three of the records were from areas of old-established oak woodland and were: Denny Wood, New Forest, Hampshire on 18th June (B.E.N.H.S. field meeting); Hoads Wood, near Ashford, Kent on 29th June and Bisley Camp, near Woking, Surrey on 23rd July. The other record however was from Westbere marsh, near Canterbury, Kent (also on a B.E.N.H.S. field meeting) on 9th July. This is an extensive area of reed marshland bordering flooded gravel pits beside the river Stour. The main trees were various *Salix* species and the only oaks observed were saplings. — P. J. JEWESS, 378 London Road, Aylesford, Kent.

A NOTE ON BREEDING THE DEATH'S HEAD HAWKMOTH (ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L.). — With reference to Dr. Neville L. Birkett's very interesting article (in *Ent. Rec.*, **89** : 152), I would like to comment on his experience with *A. atropos* L., since I have reared well over one hundred specimens of *atropos* during my annual visits to Cape Town, with a failure rate of less than 1%.

Regarding the free-lying pupa mentioned by Dr. Birkett, and the failure of the moth from this to expand its wings, I think the reason for this was probably that it had failed to free itself of the pupa case in time. This problem can be avoided by covering free-lying pupae with about an inch thick layer of wood wool (kept moist) and the moth, whilst penetrating this, gets rid of the pupa case.

Larvae ready to pupate should be provided with damp soil, about four inches deep, in which they will construct the pupal chamber (the inside of which is about the size of a